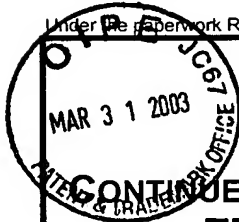


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

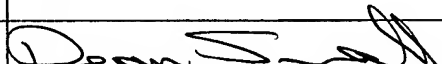
 REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).	Application Number	10/087,030
	Filing Date	March 1, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Galen M. Martin
	Group Art Unit	2833
	Examiner Name	Leon, Edwin A
	Attorney Docket Number	17812 (20958-0012)

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

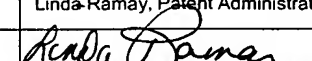
1.	Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted
i.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on <u>March 4, 2003</u> (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
ii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
iii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed
i.	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply
ii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
iii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
iv.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
2.	Miscellaneous
04/16/2003 JWB/LIAI 00000005 012384 10087030 01 FC:1451 Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
3.	Fees
The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.	
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2384
i.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
ii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
iii.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
c.	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Dean D. Small	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,730
Signature		Date:	March 31, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	Linda Ramay, Patent Administrator	Date	March 31, 2003
Signature			

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 202031.



PATENT
17812 (AT 20958-0012)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL TO
THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Express Mail mailing label number: **EV263880638US**

Date of Mailing: **March 31, 2003**

I certify that the attached **Request for Continued Examination (RCE)** of **Galen M. Martin et al.** for **CONTACT GUIDE RETENTION APPARATUS** including:

- Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal (1 pg.)(in duplicate)
- Certificate of Mailing Via Express Mail (1 page)
- Return post card

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Linda Ramay, Patent Administrator
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63102
314/621-5070

RECEIVED
APR - 4 - 2003
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM